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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1952

J. O. MURRAY, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

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List of Members of the Chatham Council

as at 31st December, 1952

THE MAYOR (Alderman F. H. Lawrence, J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman J. Presnail)

Alderman A. S. Price, J.P.
Alderman R. Homden.
Alderman G. W. Rhodes.
Alderman W. J. B. Bliss, J.P.
Councillor F. B. Semple, B.Sc.
Councillor W. G. Hogg.
Councillor G. W. Pagett, M.A., C.C.
Councillor P. J. Kelly.
Councillor D. D. Barker, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.
Councillor F. C. Manington.
Councillor A. G. C. Brown
Councillor F. B. Hodges.
Councillor T. T. Myles.
Councillor G. B. Chater.
Councillor F. Waghorn.
Councillor R. Bampton.
Councillor J. S. Thomas.
Councillor J. Wheeler.
Councillor L. H. Thomas.
Councillor R. A. Warner.
Councillor Mrs. M. T. Cox.
(One vacancy).

Public Health Committee

This consists of the whole of the members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN : Alderman G. W. Rhodes.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Councillor D. D. Barker, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health:
(Combined appointment with City of Rochester)
J. O. Murray, M.D., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer Kent County Council:
(Combined appointment with City of Rochester)
R. G. Brennen, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., C.P.H., D.P.H.
(from 17.3.52)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
Thomas Howard (a) (b)

Senior District Sanitary Inspector:
A. E. South (a) (b)

District Sanitary Inspectors:
H. Taylor (a) (b), R. W. Wright (a) (b)

Clerks:
Miss J. F. Coffey
Miss S. Springate, O. Thomas
(resigned 7.6.52.)
Miss M. Pile (from 28.7.52)

(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.
(b) Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Borough of Chatham

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"ELM HOUSE",
15 NEW ROAD AVENUE,
CHATHAM.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham.

YOUR WORSHIP, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to submit my Report for 1952.

The Registrar General's estimated population, including H.M. Forces stationed in the area, was 52,300, which is an increase of 750 on the estimated figure for 1951.

There are 13,140 dwellings on the rate book including 832 dwellings attached to business premises which gives an average number of 3.98 persons per dwelling, as compared with 3.19 for England and Wales (Census 1951).

There were 812 live births and 18 still births. The Birth Rate was 15.53, showing a slight decrease on the rate for last year.

Five hundred and forty-seven deaths were registered of which half were due to disease of the Heart Blood Vessels. Cancer caused 94 deaths : Respiratory Disease 46 ; Tuberculosis 25 and Accidents 15. (See page 7 for Death Rates).

Thirty babies died before reaching the age of one year, and the same number died in 1951. Two thirds of the deaths occurred within one week of birth and were associated with Congenital Deformity, Birth Injury or Prematurity. Infections caused 5 deaths. The Infant Mortality Rate is high when compared with that for England and Wales and towns of a similar size to Chatham (See page 8).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis see page 14).

There were 11 deaths from Pneumonia and 1 from Meningococcal Infection.

Only 1 case of Dysentery was notified as compared with 46 in 1951.

Of 4 cases of Poliomyelitis, 3 occurred in children under 15 years of age. There were no deaths.

One hundred cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. Eight were admitted to hospital.

Three hundred and twenty-five cases of Measles and 253 of Whooping Cough were notified, of which 20 per cent were in respect of children under 2 years of age. There was one death from Whooping Cough.

Primary Diphtheria Immunisation was given to 655 children and 511 persons received Primary Smallpox Vaccination.

Tuberculosis

The number of registered cases is 420. There has been a steady rise in the number of cases notified during the past four years which is attributed to improved methods of diagnosis and mass radiography.

Housing

Of 128 houses erected, 98 were built by the local authority.

Demolition Orders were made on 6 houses and 20 houses were demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.

At the end of the year the number of applicants on the waiting list for rehousing by the Corporation was 2,252.

Sewerage and Drainage

Two hundred and twenty-five houses were connected to the public sewer, of which 69 were from existing houses on cesspool drainage, the remainder being from new houses.

Extensions were made to the foul sewers, a total of 1,840 yards being laid (see page 24).

Atmospheric Pollution

Monthly analyses of the substances polluting the air continue to be made. One of the analyses is for sulphur derivatives which are respiratory irritants. The results show that in the winter months, when solid fuel consumption in domestic grates is at its maximum, the sulphur gases in the air are nearly three times greater than in the summer months. This indicates that much of this air contaminant emanates from the domestic coal fire. It is also in the winter months, when the coal consumption is highest, that the notification of, and deaths from, lung diseases rise to three times the summer figure, part of which increase is, in all probability, associated with the increased air pollution.

Much of the information in this report has been supplied by my colleagues in this and other departments, and I wish to thank them for this help and for their co-operation during the year.

I also take this opportunity to emphasise the loyal service which I have had from all members of the staff and to tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their guidance and support in the work of this department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,356
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Including forces stationed in the area)	52,300

Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:—

Dwellinghouses	12,308
Shops with living accommodation	710
Licensed Premises with living accommodation ...	122
Rateable Value	£306,540
Sum represented by a penny rate (1951-1952) ...	£1,192

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Live Births—Legitimate ...	416	349	765
Illegitimate ...	27	20	47
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			15.53
Stillbirths	11 ...	7 ...	18
Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births (crude rate)			15.87
Corrected by comparability factor			17.63
Deaths	308 ...	239 ...	547
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (crude rate)... ...			10.46
Corrected by comparability factor			11.3

Death Rate of Infants Under 1 Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births 36.94

Births

The number of births recorded is 812 as compared with 820 in 1951.

Deaths

There were 547 deaths. During the previous seven years there were :—

1951	605
1950	512
1949	531
1948	467
1947	562
1946	485
1945	501

The following table shows the average Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for five yearly periods from 1910-1949, and the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 :—

Period	Birth Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births
1910 to 1914	25.1	13.4	105
1915 to 1919	22	18	97
1920 to 1924	22.1	12.3	73
1925 to 1929	19.53	12.96	73.2
1930 to 1934	16.86	12.1	58
1935 to 1939	16.01	12.02	53.48
1940 to 1944	20.29	14.64	65.57
1945 to 1949	22.55	14.97	36.24
Year 1950	16.04	11.01	32.17
,, 1951	15.9	11.74	36.59
,, 1952	15.53	10.46	36.94

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales for the Year 1952, derived from Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns and comparable Figures for Chatham

Rates per 1,000 Home Population

	England and Wales	160 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County	Chatham (Crude Rates)	Chatham (Corrected by comparability factor)
Births						
Live Births ...	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	15.53	17.24
Still Births ...	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.38
Deaths						
All causes ...	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	10.46	11.3
Rates per 1,000 Live Births						
Deaths						
All causes under 1 year of age ...	27.6(*a*)	31.2	25.8	23.8	36.94	39.89
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age...	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.23	1.32

(*a*) Per 1,000 related live births

The number of deaths occurring each month at different age groups was as follows:—

Age	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Age group total
All under 1 year	3	5	6	2	4	2	—	2	—	2	1	3	30
1 and under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
5 and under 15	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	5
15 and under 25	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	1	1	2	—	1	11
25 and under 45	4	2	4	1	4	—	4	3	—	3	4	4	33
45 and under 65	14	16	10	14	8	13	10	6	1	14	10	16	132
65 and over	37	45	35	24	24	23	17	26	17	27	30	27	332
Monthly Totals	58	70	57	41	42	40	33	38	19	49	47	53	547

Infantile Mortality

The following table shows the causes of infantile deaths in relation to age.

Disease	(a) Under 12 hrs.	(b) 13-24 hours	(c) 1-7 days	(d) 8-28 days	(e) Over 1 m'th	(f) Total
1. Congenital .Malformation ...	—	1	1	1	1	4
2. Birth Injury ...	2	1	5	—	—	8
3. Asphyxia, Atelecta- .sis, Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	1
4. Prematurity ...	4	1	2	—	—	7
5. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	2	2	4
6. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	1	1
7. Other Causes ...	—	—	2	—	3	5
Total	6	3	10	3	8	30

The following table shows the average increases in population in five yearly periods and the year 1952, since 1922:—

Period	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural increase per 1,000 Population
1922-1926	20.72	12.2	8.52
1927-1931	18.72	13.02	5.7
1932-1936	15.92	11.68	4.24
1937-1941	17.37	13.42	3.95
1942-1946	21.59	13.84	7.75
1947-1951	19.85	12.1	7.75
1952	15.53	10.46	5.07

TOTAL DEATHS, 1952

	Chatham M.B.		
	Causes of Death	M.	F.
	All Causes	308	239
1.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	20	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms... ...	2	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	2	1
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping cough	0	1
6.	Meningococcal infections... ...	0	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	10	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	7
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	34	19
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	1
16.	Diabetes	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	30	46
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	43	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease...	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	54	63
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	9	7
22.	Influenza	1	0
23.	Pneumonia	7	4
24.	Bronchitis	23	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	5	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum...	2	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations ...	3	1
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	27	25
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34.	All other accidents	5	5
35.	Suicide	5	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	1	0
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Total ...	20	10
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Legitimate	20	9
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate	—	1
	Live Births — Total ...	443	369
	Live Births — Legitimate	416	349
	Live Births — Illegitimate	27	20
	Still Births — Total ...	11	7
	Still Births — Legitimate	11	7
	Still Births — Illegitimate	—	—

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Four Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are provided and the days and times of the various clinic sessions are as follows :—

ELM HOUSE, 15 NEW ROAD AVENUE. Tel. No. Chatham 3663.

Tuesday	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00
Wednesday (3rd & 5th in the month)	Diphtheria Immunisation	2.00—4.00
Wednesday ...	Women's Welfare (By appointment only) ...	1.00—4.00
Thursday	Ante-Natal	2.00—4.00
Friday	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00

WHITE ROAD. Tel. No. Chatham 45767.

Monday	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00
Tuesday	Ante-Natal	9.30—11.30
Wednesday (1st) ...	Diphtheria Immunisation	2.00—4.00
Thursday	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00

KINGS ROAD. Tel. No. Chatham 3663, ext. 10.

Tuesday	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00
Wednesday ...	Ante-Natal	9.30—11.30
Wednesday (4th) ...	Diphtheria Immunisation	2.00—4.00
Friday	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00

WALDERSLADE.

Friday (1st, 3rd and 5th)...	Child Welfare	2.00—4.00

SCHOOL MEDICAL, MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

These clinics are provided as follows :

ELM HOUSE.

Monday—Before 9.30 a.m., Doctor. 9.30—10.30 a.m., Nurse.

Wednesday, Friday ... ... 9.30—10.30 a.m., Nurse.

DENTAL CLINIC, "ELMSLEIGH", MAIDSTONE ROAD. Tel. No. Chatham 2098. (By appointment).

SCABIES CLINIC.

St. William's Hospital, Rochester ... ... Wednesdays p.m. (Arrangements to be made through the Public Health Department, Chatham. Tel. No. Chatham 3663/4).

CHEST CLINIC, 13 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER. Tel. No. Chatham 2182.

Tuesdays ... ... 2.00 p.m.—3.00 p.m.
Fridays ... ...9.30 a.m.—10.30 a.m.

TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES, 36 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER.

Mondays ... ... 1.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m.
Thursdays ... ...10.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m.

Hospitals in Chatham and Rochester, under the administration of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee. Secretary :—T. Rhodes, Esq., St. William's Hospital, Rochester, Tel. Chat. 4688.

	Cases
Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester. Tel. No. Chat. 4278 and 4004.	General, Medical and Surgical
All Saints' Hospital, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham. Tel. No. Chat. 3686.	General, Medical, Surgical and Maternity.
St. William's Hospital, St. William's Way, Rochester. Tel. No. Chat. 3243.	Infectious Diseases and Convalescent Surgical.

Domestic Help Service

Domestic help is available for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged persons or children not over compulsory school age, within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944. Application for these services should be made to the local Domestic Help Organiser at Elm House, Chatham, Tel. No. Chatham 2954.

Ambulance Service, King Edward Road, Rochester. Tel. No. Chat. 3540.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Treated in Hospital	No. of Deaths
Scarlet Fever	100	8	—
Pneumonia	43	1	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	68	62	—
Erysipelas	11	2	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	2	2	1
Measles	325	—	—
Whooping Cough	253	4	1
Dysentery	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (P) ...	3	3	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (NP) ...	1	1	—
Typhoid Fever	2	2	—

(b) Infectious and other Diseases (Ages)

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis	Acute Poliomyelitis (P)	Acute Poliomyelitis (NP)	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid Fever	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Food Poisoning
Under 1	24	9	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
1 — 2	59	46	3	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 — 4	76	84	25	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
5 — 10	93	185	67	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
11 — 15	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
16 — 20	—	—	1	2	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21 — 25	—	1	1	3	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26 — 35	—	—	—	7	32	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
36 — 45	—	—	—	5	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46 — 65	—	—	—	9	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66 up	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	253	325	100	43	68	11	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	6

(c) Infectious and other Diseases. (Wards).

Wards	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis	Acute Poliomyelitis (P)	Acute Poliomyelitis (NP)	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid Fever	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Food Poisoning
St Mary's ...	24	11	4	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
St. John's ...	45	40	20	7	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
St. Michael's ...	19	18	12	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Paul's ...	22	35	12	9	60	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Luton	118	202	43	12	4	4	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Christchurch ...	25	19	9	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals ...	253	325	100	43	68	11	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	6

(d) Table Showing Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases, 1928-1952

Year	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Encephalitis	Dysentery	Food Poisoning
1928 ...			223	447	—	7	12	—	7	29	—	1	2	—	—
1929 ...			61	98	6	4	13	1	14	24	5	—	2	—	—
1930 ...			84	44	2	2	21	—	4	7	2	—	1	—	—
1931 ...			58	26	2	6	11	—	1	20	—	1	—	—	—
1932 ...			149	11	16	4	11	—	4	21	6	—	—	—	—
1933 ...			146	25	2	1	10	—	2	29	2	—	—	—	—
1934 ...			114	31	1	2	17	—	2	19	—	—	—	—	—
1935 ...			44	22	2	2	17	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—
1936 ...			40	25	—	1	21	—	4	20	1	—	—	—	—
1937 ...			160	261	—	9	28	—	3	14	—	4	—	—	—
1938 ...			233	208	4	4	19	—	2	23	—	—	—	—	—
1939 ...			61	86	—	7	10	—	1	19	1	—	—	—	—
1940 ...	79	12	20	13	—	8	14	—	4	22	2	—	—	—	—
1941 ...	413	120	20	4	12	9	4	—	4	12	5	—	—	—	—
1942 ...	417	219	38	8	—	16	7	—	5	32	6	1	—	—	—
1943 ...	412	91	124	16	—	12	17	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—
1944 ...	201	182	48	12	1	18	18	2	3	29	3	—	—	4	—
1945 ...	446	111	52	9	1	23	16	—	1	34	1	3	1	1	—
1946 ...	568	52	26	2	—	4	16	5	—	27	2	1	—	—	—
1947 ...	189	179	22	7	1	7	11	—	—	20	1	2	—	1	—
1948 ...	723	171	8	—	—	9	15	—	1	24	3	2	1	—	—
1949 ...	34	189	35	—	—	8	8	—	—	19	—	2	—	1	—
1950 ...	567	137	85	—	—	9	20	—	—	28	1	1	—	20	—
1951 ...	1183	396	57	—	—	18	4	—	1	62	—	—	2	46	3
1952 ...	325	253	100	—	2	68	11	—	2	43	2	4	1	1	6

Scarlet Fever

Cases notified	100
Removed to Hospital	8
Households affected with 1 case	84
Households affected with 2 cases	8
Deaths	—

Diphtheria

No cases have been reported during the past five years.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Clinic Sessions :

Elm House	... ...	3rd & 5th Wednesdays p.m.
White Road	... ...	1st Wednesday p.m.
King's Road	... ...	4th Wednesday p.m.

The yearly figures are as follows:—

Year	*Immunised*	*Boosting Doses*
1932	561	—
1933	405	—
1934	359	—
1935	482	—
1936	395	—
1937	381	—
1938	129	—
1939	80	—
1940	—	—
1941	514	—
1942	2399	—
1943	825	—
1944	576	—
1945	546	—
1946	602	75
1947	426	348
1948	680	163
1949	941	1251
1950	622	235
1951	769	1063
1952	655	472

The following table shows the numbers and ages of children who attended the Clinic during 1952 for Immunisation:—

Year of Birth	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	Total
Primary Inoculations ...	41	394	58	36	19	40	30	17	14	5	—	—	1	—	—	655
Reinforcing Inoculations ...	—	—	—	—	21	236	137	35	28	8	4	2	1	—	—	472

The undermentioned figures show the number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1938).

Year of Birth	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	Total
	41	436	447	512	561	663	645	573	665	376	347	323	338	329	208	6464

Vaccination against Small Pox

Year of Birth	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	Before 1938	Total
Primary Vaccination	260	180	9	1	2	5	2	6	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	34	511
Re-Vaccination	—	4	—	1	2	4	1	2	2	—	1	2	1	1	1	48	70

Food Poisoning

Type of Outbreak	No. of Cases	Identified Agent	Foods Suspected	No. of Deaths
Family Outbreaks 2	4	Salmonella Organisms	No evidence that the cause was due to any particular food	—
Single Cases 2	2	Salmonella Organisms		—

Safe Food Campaign

Lectures were given to Women's Organisations, etc. Labels were supplied to food shops, requesting owners of dogs not to bring them in premises where food is sold.

Supply of Anti-Toxin

Anti-Toxin for use by medical practitioners is available at all hospitals.

Venereal Disease

The treatment centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester. I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Routh, Director, for the following particulars:—

New Patients—Chatham	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Syphilis	3	3	6
Chancroid	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	12	2	14
Non-Venereal	39	10	49
	54	15	69

Total No. of new patients from all districts 280

Total attendances of Chatham patients 1113

Total attendances of patients from all districts ...4052

DISCHARGES (all districts)

Discharged Cured:—

Syphilis	26
Gonorrhoea	23
Non-venereal	200

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT

Syphilis	3
Gonorrhoea	—

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TESTS OF CURE

Syphilis	4
Gonorrhoea	8

The following table shows the number of cases from Chatham since 1938:—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Gonorrhoea	29	39	46	73	40	26	64	22	20	36	14	17	11	10	14
Syphilis	12	16	23	60	43	13	15	10	16	24	14	20	15	11	6
Chancroid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Non-Venereal	46	42	42	43	39	49	233	59	69	72	57	59	60	59	49

Notification of Tuberculosis

PULMONARY

Total Notifications	84
By Private Practitioners	3
Hospitals	12
Chest Physician	46
Transferred from other districts	21
Reinstated Cases	2

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	10
By Private Practitioners	—
Hospitals	3
Chest Physician	4
Transferred from other districts	3
Reinstated Cases	—

Delay in Notification

Four persons died of Tuberculosis who had not previously been notified as suffering from this disease.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, Chest Physician, for the following information :—

Particulars of patients from the Chatham Area dealt with at the Chest Clinic, Rochester, during the year 1952.

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals				
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Def. T.B.	36	20	2	1	2	4	1	—	38	24	3	1	66
Non T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	124	193	63	48	428
									162	217	66	49	494

Total Attendances—1633.

INSTITUTIONS to which patients were sent during 1952:-

London Chest Hospital	2
Bow Arrow	16
Grosvenor Sanatorium	2
Kettlewell Hospital...	1
Eversfield Hospital	2
Bevendean Hospital	4
Queen Mary's, Sidcup	4
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital	5
Grove Park	8
Lenham Sanatorium	4
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester ...	1
All Saints' Hospital, Chatham	2
Brook Hospital	1
Farnborough Hospital	1
Darvell Hall	1
Keycol Hill	1
Brompton Hospital...	1
Oak Lane, Sevenoaks	1
Margate General Hospital	1
Haldane House	1
Total	59

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952 :—

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15 years ...	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
16-25 years ...	15	15	—	1	—	—	—	—
26-35 years ...	10	11	—	3	2	—	1	—
36-45 years ...	7	2	2	—	3	—	1	—
46-55 years ...	5	3	—	1	5	2	—	—
56-65 years ...	6	—	—	1	5	—	—	—
66 years up ...	2	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
Totals ...	49	35	3	7	20	3	2	—

Registered cases of Tuberculosis as at 31st December in each year:-

Year	*Pulmonary*	*Non-Pulmonary*	*Total*
1940	130	50	180
1941	156	52	208
1942	180	63	243
1943	199	70	269
1944	229	76	305
1945	232	81	313
1946	245	88	333
1947	259	102	361
1948	266	56	322
1949	291	72	363
1950	308	72	380
1951	322	69	391
1952	352	68	420

Average number of Notifications, Deaths and rates in 5 yearly periods from 1935—1949, and Annual figures for 1950, 1951 and 1952

Year	Population	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals			
		Notifications	Notifi. rate	Deaths	Death rate	Notifications	Notifi. Rate	Deaths	Death rate	Nots.	Not. Rate	Deaths	Death Rate
			Per 1,000 *persons living*		*Per* 1,000 *persons living*		*per* 1,000 *persons living*		*per* 1,000 *persons living*		*Per* 1,000 *persons living*		*Per* 1,000 *persons living*
1935—1939	44,732	45	1.00	28	.62	72	.27	3	.07	57	1.27	31	.69
1940—1944	35,752	63	1.76	33	.92	12	.34	6	.17	75	2.10	39	1.09
1945—1949	39.932	71	1.78	32	.80	15	.38	4	.10	86	2.15	36	.90
1950	46,500	84	1.81	21	.45	16	.34	1	.02	100	2.15	22	.47
1951	51,550	66	1.28	20	.39	9	.17	0	.0	75	1.45	20	.39
1952	52,300	84	1.61	23	.44	10	.19	2	.04	94	1.80	25	.48

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Rainfall during 1952.

I am indebted to Avon E. Crisp, Esq., M.A., M.Inst.C.E., for the following figures taken at the Luton Pumping Station :—

January	Total depth in inches	2.13
February	,, ,, ,, ,,	1.01
March	,, ,, ,, ,,	3.13
April	,, ,, ,, ,,	.98
May	,, ,, ,, ,,	1.07
June	,, ,, ,, ,,	1.66
July	,, ,, ,, ,,	.81
August	,, ,, ,, ,,	2.70
September	,, ,, ,, ,,	3.48
October	,, ,, ,, ,,	2.15
November	,, ,, ,, ,,	4.48
December	,, ,, ,, ,,	2.75
	Total	26.35

Water

Supply is by the Chatham & District Water Company and has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. 36 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, each of which showed a good result. Chlorination is still carried out.

A new reservoir is being built by Chatham & District Water Company at Bridgewood, Maidstone Road, Chatham. The storage capacity is approximately 3,000,000 gallons. An extension of mains was made in Langdowns Road for the new Housing Estate.

14,140 premises have internal mains supply.
16 ,, ,, no mains supply.
12 ,, ,, mains supply from external stand pipes.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The number of houses connected to the public sewer during the year was :—

New Houses :—	
Corporation Property	98
Private	58
Existing Houses	69
Total connected during year ...	225

Extensions were made to the foul sewer in Langdowns Road, Chestnut Avenue, Alexandra Road, York Avenue and the new Council House Estate, a total of 1,840 yards being laid.

Public Cleansing

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department and disposal is by controlled tipping.

House refuse is collected once per week except in the High Street, Military Road and Railway Street area where it is collected three times per week. Trade refuse is collected at the same time as the house refuse except where large quantities need special collection.

In accordance with the decision of the Council, all rubbish tipped must be covered the same night.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1952

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and the Sanitary Depot for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

The bomb sites and the spaces left by the demolition of old houses are fast becoming a menace to public health through the dumping of old mattresses, household and garden refuse. Loads of this refuse have been disposed of so as to prevent the breeding of rats, flies, mosquitoes, and the general unsightliness of the neighbourhood. It is extraordinary that people should carry this refuse to a dump when they could place it in dustbins in their own yards. One solution to this problem is the utilisation of such sites for further housing accommodation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

T. HOWARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

7th August, 1953.

SECTION E.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 860

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 2662

2. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 126

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 31

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 309

2. Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 173

3. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

   1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil.

   2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

      (a) by owners ... ... Nil.

      (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

   1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 131

   2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

      (a) By owners 162

      (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 6
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 20

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

New Houses During 1952

(a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1952 was 148.

(b) The total number of houses erected during 1952 ... 128
(1) Houses erected by Local Authority 98
(2) Houses erected by other Persons 30

Re-Housing of Council House Applicants

During the year, 24 removals were undertaken by this Department. In each case fumigation was carried out to the household effects.

Requisitioning of Vacant Houses

During the year, enquiries were made into 32 vacant houses, with a view to requisitioning. In all cases the houses were occupied. The main cause of delay was the time lag in redecoration and transferring the deeds of houses to new purchasers.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the 31st December, 1952, was 21.

Rat Destruction

No. of rats caught in dwellinghouses	110
No. of rats caught in business premises	146
No. of rats caught at farms	232
No. of rats caught on Corporation property ...	36
	524

Poison treatment, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' instructions was carried out, and the number of rats destroyed was 595. Of this figure, 54 carcases were found and included in the total of 524.

The manholes of the foul sewers were test baited and treated in May and November. The number of manholes baited was 375 and the number of manholes showing takes was 39. The latter manholes were confined to three small areas.

The number of complaints of infestations received from local residents was 213.

Foods and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 106 samples of food and drugs were taken as per the following table :—

	No. of Samples		Result of Analysis		
			Adulterated		Genuine
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
Sponge Mixture		2			2
Plum Jam		2			2
Fish Paste		1			1
Meat Paste		2			2
Milk..	34	4			38
Ground Arrowroot ..		1			1
Baking Powder		3			3
Honey		2			2
Cakeoma		1			1
Vinegar		1			1
Lemon Juice		1			1
Pork Sausage Meat ..	1	2		1	2
Beef Sausage Meat ..	1				1
Sausages		1		1	
Pork Sausages	5	2	2		5
Beef Sausages	2	2	1	2	1
Milk Lolly		1			1
Processed Cheese		3		3	
Coffee		1			1
Ice Cream	3	4			7
Lemon Butter and Pineapple Spread ..		1			1
Peanut Butter		1			1
Ground Rice		1			1
Non-brewed Condiment ..		2			2
Sauce		1			1
Ginger Conserve		1			1
Gravy Salt		1			1
Aspirin		1			1
Beef Suet		1			1
Currants		1			1
Sultanas		1			1
Liquid Paraffin		1			1
Ice Lolly		1		1	
Vant Ice		1		1	
Cough Mixture		1			1
Nutmeg		1			1
Butter		1			1
Whiskey	1				1
Gin..	2		1		1
Dressed Crab		1			1
Fish Cake		1			1
Tea		1			1
Totals	49	57	4	9	93

Adulterated Samples

(i) **Sausages and Sausage Meat.** Two of these samples contained excessive gristle (9.5 per cent). The matter was reported to the local authority in whose area the samples were purchased. A third sample was submitted because of a peculiar taste and it was found that the fat it contained was rancid. The four remaining samples were all deficient in meat content and were reported to the Ministry of Food for action under the Meat Products (No. 2) Order, 1952.

(ii) **Vant Ice.** The certificate of analysis in respect of this sample states that it ought not to be described as " ice " but as a " lolly ". This matter was reported to the Ministry of Food for action.

(iii) **Ice Lolly.** The certificate of analysis in respect of this sample states that the total solids were 2.0 per cent : T. Sugar (invert) 1.92 per cent Inferior.

(iv) **Processed Cheese.** In all cases, in the opinion of the analyst, the moisture content was excessive.

(v) **Gin.** The certificate of analysis in respect of this sample states that the proof spirit was 66.3 per cent and it was certified as inferior. A warning letter was sent to the vendor.

Samples for Bacteriological Analysis.—County Laboratory, Maidstone

The following samples were collected for analysis :—

WATER

36 water samples were found to be " Good Water."

MILK

322 samples of milk were taken with the following result :—

Class of Milk	Number of Samples	Appropriate Tests	Number of Tests	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	165	Phosphatase	162	3
		Methylene Blue	142	23
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	157	Phosphatase	151	6
		Methylene Blue	143	14

33 samples of raw milk were submitted for Biological Examination and of these, 6 samples proved to be Tubercule positive. The County Medical Officer was notified in each case.

Ice Cream

16 Ice Cream Samples were taken and the result was as follows :—

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
8	3	5	—

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the above regulations :

Sterilised	98
Sterilised (Supplementary)...	1
Pasteurised (Dealers')	11
Pasteurised (Dealers' Supplementary)	4
Pasteurised (Dealers' Pasteurisers)	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the above regulations :

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers')	7
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers' Supplementary) ...	3

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

42 Milk Distributors were registered under the above regulations.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
*Number inspected ...	350	12	35	2662	2317	5376
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—						
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	1	93	14	110
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	148	9	2	323	174	656
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	42.86	75.0	8.57	15.63	8.11	14.2
Tuberculosis Only—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	6	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	23	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	1.11	—	—	—	1.20	.61

* These figures include the following animals slaughtered outside the Borough which were inspected at the Wholesale Meat Association Depot (Cold Store) and were mainly from outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease which occurred in and around Ashford last year :—

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
219	3	35	2662	191

Unsound Food Voluntarily Surrendered, 1952

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned was 14 tons 9 cwts. 1qr. 1 lb.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total weight of meat condemned ...	8	2	2	8
Total weight fish condemned	3	19	0	11
Total weight tinned and other foods condemned	2	7	2	10

Inspection of Meat and other Foods

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected since 1942:—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
1942 ...	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
1943 ...	1165	546	1025	6641	466	9861
1944 ...	1341	1087	963	4956	1147	9494
1945 ...	1425	990	1251	3313	1626	8605
1946 ...	1920	1065	3326	5079	1429	12819
1947 ...	850	349	986	2709	684	5578
1948 ...	443	54	—	5	322	824
1949 ...	324	63	2	3	547	939
1950 ...	369	28	—	2	584	983
1951 ...	494	11	—	2	947	1454
1952 ...	350	12	35	2662	2317	5376

There is one slaughterhouse in the Borough and it is used by the Ministry of Food. There is also one Knacker's Yard.

Fish Offal

Fish Offal collected was 9 tons 3 cwts., and the amount received was £43 6s. 0d. (This amount includes a collecting fee).

Bakehouses

There are 13 Bakehouses in the Borough. One of these was modernised during the year.

Fish Fryers

There are 22 Fish Fryers on the register.

Ice Cream

4 premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream and 122 for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Disinfestation of Bedding, etc.

Bedding from Council House Applicants fumigated	16
Furniture from Council House Applicants disinfected	16
Council house rooms fumigated for vermin ...	44
Rooms of other houses fumigated for vermin ...	86
Bedding disinfected for vermin	18
Beds or Parcels of Bedding destroyed	21
Infectious diseases—bedding fumigated	94
Infectious diseases—rooms disinfected	35
Wasps' Nests destroyed	4
Loads of Rubbish destroyed	40
Parcels of bedding fumigated for private individuals	1
Rooms sprayed—offensive smell	10

Contagious Diseases of Animals Act

One case of Swine Fever was reported and form "A" (Article 2 and 14) was served. The case was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No case of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in the Borough of Chatham, but several occurred within a radius of approximately twenty miles, and the movement of all animals had to be authorised by the issue of licences by this Department.

It will be seen from the meat inspection tables (page 31) that many of the animals slaughtered on the farms were brought to Chatham for inspection.

Cesspool Work

The number of old houses connected to the Corporation Sewer during the year 1952 was 69. This means that some 60 leaking cesspools have been abolished.

708 complaints of choked drains and cesspool overflows were received, and it was found possible to clear 612 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints. The number of cesspools emptied was 96.

Camping Sites

There are no Summer camping sites within the Borough but four licences were granted under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year. These licences were of a temporary nature.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are no Rag Flock Manufacturing premises within the Borough but three premises where filling materials are utilised are registered. These premises are satisfactory.

Notices Served

During the year the following Notices were served:—

No. of Informal Notices	309
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1952 Informal Notices	118
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1951 Informal Notices	13
Total No. of Statutory Notices served during the year ...	131

The following were completed :—

No. of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	173
No. of Statutory Notices completed	*162
Total No. of Notices completed in year 1952	*335

* This figure includes notices completed during the year, but served prior to 1952.

Visits Made by the Sanitary Inspectors During the Year

Houses (1st Visits)	734
Houses (Subsequent Visits)	1,723
Housing Act (1st Visits)	126
Housing Act (Subsequent Visits)	79
Council House Applicants	64
Overcrowding	34

Verminous Premises	213
Slaughterhouses	484
Knacker Yard	21
Unsound Food	422
Cold Store	178
Food Shops	722
Fish Fryers	144
Bakehouses	167
Restaurants	201
Food and Drugs	242
Milk (Special Designations)	367
Milk (T.B. Order)	25
Dairies	254
Ice Cream Vendors	82
Water Samples	34
Infectious Diseases	168
Tuberculosis	69
Bedding and Disinfection	40
Drainage and Subsequent Visits	2,003
Drainage Tests (New)	184
Drainage Tests (Old)	80
Cesspools	128
Contagious Diseases of Animals Act	94
Marine Stores	11
Factories (P)	107
Factories (NP)	10
Outworkers	193
Public Conveniences	83
Courts and Alleys	265
Stables	28
Piggeries	132
Rats Order	145
Refuse Heap and Accumulations	132
Gypsy Encampment	138
Vacant Premises	32
Miscellaneous	686
Atmospheric Pollution	28
Merchandise Marks Act	52
Rag Flock Act	1
Pet Animals Act	35
Housing Survey	31
Total Visits	11,191

Nuisances Abated after service of Notice.

Accumulations of Refuse removed	4
W.C. pans renewed	17
Inspection Pits repaired	1
Ceilings repaired	63

Cesspool Covers repaired or provided	7
Cesspools filled in	2
Chimney pots replaced	5
Chimney stacks repaired	10
Choked drains cleared	10
Coppers repaired or provided	6
Door locks or fasteners repaired	4
Doors or frames repaired	13
Doors provided	2
Drains repaired	8
Drains of old buildings relaid	5
Firegrates, stoves and kitcheners renewed	3
Firegrates, stoves and kitcheners repaired	21
Floors repaired	39
Flushing cisterns repaired	30
Flushing cisterns provided	2
Flues repaired or provided	6
Gutters or downpipes cleared	5
Gutters or downpipes repaired or provided	73
Inspection covers provided	1
Inspection pits provided	2
Interiors cleansed	7
Roofs repaired	157
Sashcords repaired or provided	31
Sinks repaired or renewed	6
Sink waste pipes repaired	22
Stair treads or steps repaired	10
Walls repaired	77
Damp walls repaired	29
Weatherboarding or external walls repaired	27
Windows reglazed	5
Window frames, sashes, sills repaired	41
W.C. seats or risers repaired	4
W.C. structures repaired or rebuilt	6
Supply pipes to W.C. cisterns repaired	15
Yard paving repaired	8
Yard Gulley or Grills provided	3
Vent Shaft provided	3
Vent Shaft repaired	3
Miscellaneous	13